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Watershed Protection: A Project Focus

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Office of Water

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Appendix C: Programs That Can Be Useful For Control Of Nonpoint Source Pollution

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Agency and Program	Program Descriptions and Agency Responsibilities	Resources Available and Possible Roles
<p>US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)</p> <p>Located in 10 Regional Offices. Headquarters in Washington DC</p>	<p>Provides environmental assessments, water quality monitoring, regulations and regulatory oversight, education, planning, technical assistance, grants and loans for pollution control.</p>	<p>Staff, information and data, laboratories and research facilities, grants and loans for pollution control, educational materials, monitoring equipment.</p>
EPA - Permits	<p>NPDES permits for confined animal feeding operations, enforcement for non-compliance</p>	<p>Staff for technical assistance with modeling and permit drafting, site inspections and compliance monitoring. Funds for special studies or projects.</p>
EPA- Pesticides	<p>Regulation of pesticide labeling and registration, which includes application rates, allowable crops and pests, environmental and human health cautions, disposal procedures. Licensing of restricted use pesticide applicators.</p>	<p>Staff for review of research results, assistance with strategic planning, education and training, oversight of enforcement procedures of States. Funds for special projects and studies.</p>
EPA - Surface water quality management (multiple programs)	<p>Overall water quality management planning and management through the following programs:</p> <p><i>Nonpoint Source Control</i> — Program which oversees and approves State development of</p>	<p>Staff for technical assistance to State and local agencies, review and approval of State programs, research and special studies. Grants to States for most water quality protection activities, educational</p>

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	<p>water quality assessments and management programs. Directs funds to high priority watershed projects.</p> <p><i>Clean Lakes</i> — Program provides funds to restore or enhance publicly owned lakes.</p> <p><i>Coastal Programs</i> — A number of programs designed to assess and protect coastal waters, including the National Estuary program</p> <p><i>Wetlands</i> — Oversight of the Corps of Engineers on wetlands dredge and fill permits, takes enforcement actions for illegal wetlands filling, technical support for wetlands delineations.</p> <p><i>Water Quality Standards</i> — Programs provides technical assistance in developing numeric, narrative and biological criteria and standards to protect water quality and its use.</p>	<p>materials and programs. Funds for special studies or projects.</p>
EPA - Monitoring and surveillance	Environmental assessment, data analysis, oversight of State monitoring programs, special studies and agency research, EPA laboratory and Office of Research and Development coordination.	Staff for technical assistance to States and citizens on monitoring programs and projects; special studies and data analysis upon request; water quality monitoring at select

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		locations.
EPA - Drinking Water	Regulates public drinking water supplies and suppliers, special studies on human health and risk, develops drinking water criteria and MCLs (maximum contaminant levels). Administers a special program that encourages watershed projects to decrease pollution loads to drinking water supplies if installation of BMPs is less expensive than the water treatment. Provides technical and programmatic assistance to State wellhead protection programs. Supports an initiative to expand community-based source water protection efforts.	Staff for technical assistance in setting drinking water standards, special studies, oversight and compliance monitoring of public water supplies and suppliers.
EPA - Ground water	Administers the Sole Source Aquifer Protection Program and provide technical and programmatic assistance to Comprehensive State Groundwater Protection Programs.	Staff for technical assistance; funds for special studies.
EPA - Office of Research and Development (ORD)	Conducts basic and applied research to support EPA mission including biological and physical studies on fate and transport of environmental contaminants and ecosystems at large.	Reports, data, maps, monitoring equipment, study and demonstration sites, staff for technical assistance in interpreting research results.
US Department of	Stabilize and support the	Staff, technical assistance,

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<p>Agriculture (USDA) Unless otherwise indicated each agency has field offices located in almost every county or parish, State offices in each State and a Washington, D.C. office.</p>	<p>efficient production, marketing and distribution of food and fiber. In addition to commodity and public welfare programs, administers a number of conservation programs designed to assist private and federal land owners or managers in natural resource conservation and multiple use management. Works mainly with private individuals on improving resource management.</p>	<p>information and data, educational materials, cost-share funds, engineering equipment.</p>
<p>USDA - Multiple agency administration of 1985 and 1990 "Farm Bill" programs:</p>	<p>Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) — Program to conserve/protect highly erodible or other environmentally sensitive land from production by putting it in permanent vegetative cover through 10 year easements and annual rental payments</p> <p>Wetlands Reserve Program — Program available only in pilot States to return drained wetlands to wetland status and protect existing wetlands. Uses same easement/payment method as CRP.</p> <p>Sustainable Agricultural Research and Education Program — A practical research, education grant program to promote lower input methods of farming.</p>	<p>In most cases responsibilities within these programs are divided between departments of USDA as follows:</p> <p>NRCS — technical assistance in planning, design, and implementation of BMPs.</p> <p>ASCS — Administrative oversight of program and cost-share funding disbursement.</p> <p>CES — Education and information about the variety of conservation and economic choices available.</p> <p>CSRS — Research, data, and the results of demonstration field trials of</p>

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	<p>Conservation cross compliance (sodbuster and swampbuster) — A quasi-regulatory program that denies subsidy payments to farmers who plow highly erodible land or drain wetlands.</p> <p>Water Quality Incentives Program — A watershed treatment program designed to improve or protect soil and water resources in watersheds impacted or threatened by NPS pollution.</p>	new technologies
USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) formerly Soil Conservation Service (SCS)	<p>Technical assistance on the planning, site specific design and installation and management of soil and range conservation, animal waste, and water quality management systems and special land and water resource assessments and inventories. Cost-share funds for installation of BMPs on private lands are available from some of the programs listed below.</p>	Staff and equipment in field offices for technical assistance including engineering designs, survey work, and planning for water resource protection.
USDA-NRCS-Small Watershed Program (PL-566)	<p>Evaluation and treatment of small agricultural watersheds with multiple resources to protect. Includes land and natural resource inventories and assessments, basin-wide planning and targeting of resources, technical assistance and educational programs.</p>	Staff for technical assistance to landowners and decision-makers in the basin, funds for demonstration projects, reconnaissance and intensive inventories of resources.

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USDA-NRCA-Great Plains Conservation Program (GPCP)	Intensive conservation treatment for individual farms located within the Great Plains ecoregion through long-term agreements (3-10 year contract) with farmers.	Technical assistance, cost-share funds up to 75% of the average cost of selected high priority conservation practices.
USDA-NRCS-Resource Conservation and Development Program (RC&D)	Voluntary program to promote economic development and to intensify resource protection in priority areas through the use of public participation in RC&D councils.	Planning assistance for small communities for community-wide resource protection.
USDA-NRCS-Natural Resource Assessment Programs: Soil Survey, Natural Resources Inventory, River Basin Studies	Various programs to map and assess the condition of natural resources (generally soil, water, vegetation and wildlife) and conservation treatments.	Maps, reports, data information, statistical analysis.
USDA-Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS)	Provides administrative oversight and cost sharing for approved conservation practices from ASCS and other USDA administered programs. Tracks crop production and other statistics. Distributes crop subsidy and deficiency payments.	Maps, conservation practice status information, cost-share funds
USDA-ASCS-Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP)	Cost-sharing on an annual basis for a number of soil conserving, production efficiency improving and water quality practices.	Funds for cost share, generally limited to \$3,500 per farm per year.
USDA-ASCS-	Cost-sharing on an annual basis	Funds for cost share of high

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Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)	to replace conservation treatments (mainly structural) that were destroyed in areas designated as disaster areas due to an act of nature.	priority conservation practices.
USDA-ASCS-Water Bank Program	Designed to improve and restore wetland areas through financial compensation for 10 year easements on private property	Funds for easement compensation on eligible lands in participating States.
USDA-ASCS-Colorado River Salinity Control Program (CRSCP)	Financial assistance for farm projects which seek to control salinity levels delivered to the basin, primarily irrigation water management.	Funds, reports, data on level of conservation treatment, demonstration sites, funds for cost-share, monitoring and education.
USDA-ASCS-Forestry Incentives Program (FIP)	Cost-share to re-vegetate and improve timber stands on private lands	Cost-share funds
USDA-Cooperative Extensive Service (CES)	Educational programs and information to aid individuals in the selection, operation, and maintenance of the most beneficial conservation treatments. Economic analysis and data for each farm or ranch. Provides technical assistance in integrated pest management. Programs generally carried out in cooperation with State land grant universities.	Staff for educational programs and technical assistance, personalized economic analysis, and coordinating small scale demonstrations on local farms. Educational materials.
USDA-Cooperative State Research Service (CSRS)	Applied research, usually at State experiment stations on agricultural production and soil and water conservation,	Reports, data, equipment. Occasionally funds for joint/special projects outside the normal research

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	generally using demonstration plots. Conducts the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program (SARE). Many projects in cooperation with State land grant universities.	agenda. Grants for Agriculture in Concert with the Environment (ACE) program.
<p>USDA-Forest Service (USFS)</p> <p>Field offices located in each national forest, Regional offices located in 9 areas. Headquarters in Washington, DC.</p>	<p>Management of national forests and grasslands for sustained production and multiple use. Works with individuals, industries and other agencies.</p>	<p>Staff, maps, reports, equipment for construction and monitoring, educational materials, occasionally funds for special projects.</p>
<p>USDA-USFS-Permit program</p>	<p>Management of national forests and grasslands for sustained production and multiple use. Works with individuals, industries, and other agencies.</p>	<p>Staff for technical assistance and compliance monitoring.</p>
<p>USDA-USFS-Air and Watershed Programs</p>	<p>Overall environmental planning and technical support for forest management decisions. Special studies and watershed demonstration projects in certain areas.</p>	<p>Funds for special studies and watershed demonstration projects. Natural resource inventories and reports, water quality/habitat monitoring, and environmental analysis of resource trends and conditions.</p>
<p>USDA-USFS-Forest Stewardship Initiative</p>	<p>Technical assistance and cost share to private inholdings or lands adjacent to National Forest lands for installing BMPs.</p>	<p>Funds and technical assistance to individuals.</p>

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USDA-Farmers Home Administration (FmHA)	Loans and loan guarantees to eligible producers for operating expenses, land purchase and conservation measures.	Funds and loans for property improvement and conservation treatment installation and water conservation practices.
USDA-Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Research stations located throughout each State: most specialize in particular types of investigations.	Basic and applied research on agricultural production and conservation measures, including fertilizers, pesticides and BMP effectiveness.	Reports, BMP effectiveness and environmental fate and transport data, demonstration sites; occasionally funds for joint sponsored projects.
US Department of the Interior (USDOI) Offices located in regional centers, field offices in numerous management areas; headquarters in Washington, DC.	Oversight, management, or monitoring of National natural resources, including land, water, and wildlife.	Staff, maps, reports, demonstration sites, educational materials, monitoring equipment.
USDOI-Geological Survey (USGS)	Long term baseline monitoring of water resources (quantity and quality), hydrologic and geologic investigations and data, special intensive short term studies.	Maps, data, and information on hydrology and water quality status and trends. Staff for technical assistance in designing a monitoring plan.
USDOI-Fish and Wildlife Service	Oversight and regulation of the Nation's wildlife resources. Management of national wildlife reserves, enforcement of federal game and fish laws, cooperative	Staff for environmental analysis and trend evaluation on BLM land, technical assistance and oversight. Funds for special

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	administration of national wetlands program with COE and EPA. Cooperative projects to enhance wildlife habitat, special studies (especially fisheries investigations).	studies and cost-share for permittees for certain conservation practices (generally grazing/range management). Funds for range improvement, riparian area management, and recreational area development projects. Maps.
USDOJ-Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)	Technical assistance to tribes on tribal lands mainly for social services. Some assistance for conservation work and educational programs. Natural resource inventories and monitoring of ground and surface water.	Maps, natural resource inventories of Indian and tribal lands. Funds for special projects. Staff for technical assistance to tribes.
USDOJ-Bureau of Reclamation	Administers, constructs, and oversees water supply facilities in western States. Regulates discharge from these facilities. Joint administration of the Colorado river Salinity Control program with many agencies to set consistent salinity standards and manage public and private lands within the basin. New initiative to reclaim lands damaged by federal irrigation projects.	Staff for oversight of projects and management of federal property and facilities, assessment of water quality around reservoirs as part of the national irrigation water quality program. Maps, reports, and data.
USDOJ-National Park Service	Administers and manages national parks for preservation of natural resources.	Staff for oversight and administration. Funds for special studies and occasionally cooperative

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		projects on land adjoining park boundaries.
USDOI-Office of Surface Mining	Regulates the removal and reclamation of surface mined minerals, mostly coal on private lands.	Staff for oversight and technical assistance in mining operations and reclamation efforts, for engineering studies, and for vegetative site inspections and monitoring of resources. Educational materials, data and reports.
US Department of Defense-Army Corps of Engineers (COE) Field offices located in various districts throughout the States	Oversees construction and operation of large flood control and public water supply reservoirs, conducts water quality monitoring on lakes within their jurisdiction. Regulates in-lake activities and shoreline development. Cooperatively administers the wetlands dredge and fill permit program with EPA and USFWS. Can enforce permit requirements for BMPs or other mitigation.	Maps, special studies, monitoring data. Staff and funds for improvement of existing projects. Staff for review and oversight of 404 (wetlands) permits.
US Department of Commerce-National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	Administers programs in cooperation with States to inventory and manage coastal resources. funds and performs basic research and assessments relating to coastal eutrophication. Maintains database for pesticides and nutrient loadings.	Funds to State coastal programs. Staff for technical assistance. Data, reports, educational materials. Occasionally funds for special demonstration projects.
USDOC-NOAA-	In cooperation with EPA,	Staff for technical

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Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) programs	administers a quasi-regulatory coastal protection program that specifies management measures for control and prevention of NPS pollution in coastal areas for all land use activities.	assistance. Funds for plan development.
State Water Quality Agencies	Administers many programs (similar to USEPA's) for protection of water quality in ground and surface water, including the NPDES permit program, water quality standards regulations, the NPS program, ambient statewide monitoring programs.	Staff for technical assistance to local governments and individuals in BMP application. Water quality monitoring, data and reports. Funds for pollution control projects, educational materials, and programs.
State Natural Resource Agencies	Administer programs for wetlands and coastal protection programs.	Staff for technical assistance to local governments. Monitoring of natural resource trends. Reports, data, educational materials, and programs.
State Department of Agriculture	Regulates pesticide registration and use, administers marketing and rural development programs. Sometimes issues permits for fertilizer or feedlots.	Staff for oversight of applicators and other regulatory functions.
State Cooperative Extension Services	Provide training and technical assistance to landowners in nonpoint source control.	Staff for education, technical assistance, and research.
State Department of Health	Administer septic tank and public drinking water regulatory programs. Monitor water supplies. Provide technical	Staff for technical assistance to local governments, monitoring, and educational programs.

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	assistance to local governments.	Data, reports, and educational materials.
State Soil and Water Conservation Commission	Administer cooperative programs with the USDA SCS to conserve soil and water resources on private lands. Provide technical assistance to individuals.	Staff for technical assistance to individuals, engineering or construction equipment, services and supplies that support BMP implementation. Some States have cost-share funds for BMPs.
State Fish and Game Agencies	Regulate the harvest of fish and wildlife resources by individuals and commercial operations. Responsible for cost recovery to State of lost fish and wildlife due to environmental contamination.	Staff for enforcement of State fish and game laws and for technical assistance in wildlife and fisheries management for private individuals. Educational materials, natural resource inventory data, and fish monitoring support.
State Water Rights Agency	Responsible for allocation of water rights (mostly in western States). Regulates consumptive use of water resources.	Staff for permit writing and oversight. Data and reports on water flow.
Local Planning and Zoning boards, City Planning Commissions, County Planning Boards	Specify land use zoning and boundary determinations, general community planning, oversight of program operation.	Maps, long range plans, inventory of local resources, special reports, budget information, staff for technical assistance.
Local School Boards and School Administrations	Oversees public education within jurisdictional boundaries. Can set local curricula requirements and priorities. Taxing authority, bond issuing	Information on status of current educational programs, assistance in developing new initiatives.

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	authority.	
Local Municipal Utilities Districts	Oversees construction and maintenance of public works projects for water and sewer (occasionally energy). Taxing and bond issuing authority.	Information and special reports on water issues. Funds for special projects to enhance system operation and reduce costs.
Regional River Authorities	Manage and coordinate activities within their basin for flood control, water quality protection, energy development. Taxing authority.	Data, reports, maps, water quality monitoring. Staff for technical assistance to local government and other agencies or groups. Funds for special projects.
Regional Planning Commissions and Councils of Government	Assist in the coordination of activities of all governments within council areas. Provide technical assistance, information, and promotes special projects.	Staff for technical assistance to local governments, occasionally water quality monitoring, reports and data about local conditions. Funds for special projects.
Others-Commodity Groups	Various groups usually formed to improve marketing and lobbying capabilities for specific crops or livestock interests. Almost every major crop has at least one such group.	Staff for data gathering and analysis, public education campaigns, technical support to growers, legislative and market analysis. Funds from members for special projects.
Environmental Organizations	Various groups formed to protect, conserve, or preserve the environment in general or to address a specific issue. Lobby for environmental laws and programs, as well as funding.	Staff and volunteers for assistance with local projects, occasionally funding for cooperative work. Educational materials and programs. Reports and

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	Many perform volunteer services such as water quality monitoring or natural resource rehabilitation work.	data on environmental conditions and trends.
Social and Service Clubs	Formed for reasons other than resource protection, most do local projects that enhance or beautify the community.	Staffed with volunteers, these organizations can provide labor, supplies and equipment on mutually beneficial projects as well as insight into the community.